

"Looking at the vestiges of a people so representative of the rudest type of man, anthropologists must join with philanthropists in regretting their unhappy fate, which fills a dismal page of our colonial history. We are now beginning to see what scientific value there would have been in such a minute careful portraiture of their thoughts and customs as Mr. Howitt is drawing up of the Australian tribes just across Bass' Straits. As this cannot be, at least it is necessary that the existing information should be diligently collected and critically sifted. To this task Mr. H. Ling Roth has devoted long and conscientious labour, examining in all likely quarters so as to gather together the notices scattered through voyages, histories, colonial documents, and other sources from which first-hand information, however fragmentary, could be obtained. Anthropologists, who have so often had to complain of the scantiness of materials as to the native Tasmanians, will find with surprise that much more is really known than was supposed, and will be glad to possess this book, the more so that its object being technical rather than popular, only a small number of copies has been printed."